



CELEBRATING  
OUR CENTENARY



ENGINEERS  
AUSTRALIA

# Hall of Fame Inductees

## Engineering Heritage Queensland

### Dr. Mike SARGENT AM

*HonFIEAust CPEng(Ret) EngExec*

**INDUCTED IN 2015**

The M A Sargent Medal is named in honour of Dr Michael Anthony (Mike) Sargent AM, an outstanding Australian electrical engineer. The career achievement award is Australia's highest honour in the field and is given by both the College of Electrical Engineering and the College of Information, Telecommunications and Electronics Engineering of Engineers Australia. Past recipients have included Australia's Chief Scientist Alan Finkel and Alex Zelinsky, Australia's Chief Defence Scientist.

Dr Sargent graduated from the University of Queensland in 1964 and gained a PhD in electrical engineering at the same university in 1967. After holding various engineering appointments in Queensland and North America he joined the South East Queensland Electricity Board in 1978 becoming its Chief Engineer in 1984 and became Manager, Business Systems in 1989.

Dr. Sargent has 40 years experience in the electricity industry in Australia, the United States, and Canada and has had a long involvement with innovation, being author of nearly one hundred papers. Dr. Sargent established the framework for the commercialization of innovation in SEQEB and ACTEW. Significant technologies commercialised through this process include the automatic telephone answering destination routing (which subsequently became the basis of the Telstra 13.. number system), advanced micro-controllers for SCADA systems, advanced wastewater treatment system (CRANOS), and TRANSACT Communications FTTC broadband system. Dr. Sargent established the framework for advanced computing in Australia, now managed by APAC (Australian Partnership for Advanced Computing).

He was appointed the Chief Executive Officer at ACTEW Corporation in 1991 and later became the Chief Executive at Transfield Energy Group and then Deputy Chairman at Epicorp Limited.

He has consulted both in Australia and for the World Bank internationally on research and innovation systems. He has been Chair of a number of Australian Government Committees and Taskforces in of research and innovation, including the Australian Research Council and the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Committee, ARENA Advisory Panel and has been a director of the Australian Solar Institute. His renewable energy technology expertise is in the areas of solar photovoltaic, solar thermal, geothermal and ocean technologies.

Dr Sargent was a Director of the Australian Energy Market Operator, a Member of the Clean Energy Regulator, Chairman of Lighthouse Innovation Centre Limited, a high technology seed fund and incubator, and an Adjunct Professor of the University of Technology Sydney and of the University of Queensland.

Dr Sargent has served in many positions in Engineers Australia including Chairman of the Electrical and Computing Branch of Queensland Division 1976, Chairman of Queensland Division 1984, Member of Council 1984-1990, Deputy Chairman of the Electrical College Board 1988 and President of Engineers Australia in 1990.

He is an Honorary Fellow of Engineers Australia, a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and Academician of the International Academy for Quality. He is a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International, and a director of the Heart Foundation (ACT).

He was awarded the Peter Nicol Russell Memorial Medal in 1992 and in recognition of his service to engineering he was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1993 and awarded a Centenary Medal in 2003.